

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

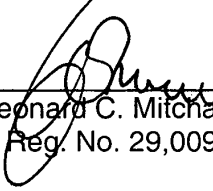
Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 37-74, 120-145, 148, 150-153, 156, 158-162, 164-165, 167, 169, 179, 181, 184, 186, 193-194, and 198-246 are in the case. Claims 199 and 233 have been amended to improve their form. No new matter is entered.

Applicants await an early action on the merits. If the Examiner finds this case is not now in condition for allowance and believes that an interview prior to first action would be helpful in focussing and/or resolving issues, applicants request the Examiner to contact their representative at the telephone number listed below to arrange a telephonic or personal interview.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Leonard C. Mitchard  
Reg. No. 29,009

LCM:lfm  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100